



Embassy of the United States of America
Port Louis, Mauritius
PRESS RELEASE

Mauritian Participant at International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP)
"American Youth: Inspiring Leadership and Civic Participation"

Port Louis, March 1, 2013: The U.S. Embassy Port Louis has nominated Mr. Nilen Vencadasmy, Barrister-at-Law, for an IVLP program on the theme of "American Youth: Inspiring Leadership and Civic Participation", beginning on March 11 and ending on March 29, 2013 in the U.S. Participants are coming from Comoros, Kenya, Egypt, Nigeria, Venezuela, Nepal, India, Mexico, Singapore and Vietnam among other countries.

The program will open in Washington, D.C. Participants will learn about the role of federal government institutions in youth policy and the role of the non-profit sector in youth development. They will also get a better understanding of university service learning programs and the role of social media. After three days in Washington D.C., the group will head towards New Orleans, Louisiana for a week. They will participate in half-day workshops on leadership development, youth-centered public-private partnerships, youth leadership in disaster recovery and children-centered conflict resolution. Youth development through the culinary arts, fashion design and entrepreneurship will also be explored. The participants will engage in some volunteer experience.

The group will then be divided into sub-groups. Some going to Atlanta, Georgia, others going to Indianapolis, Indiana, and the group to which Nilen Vencadasmy was assigned, going to Portland, Oregon. Each sub-group will follow generally the same program, with some variation in each location. Portland, Oregon, is a progressive community in the northwestern corner of the United States that is recognized nationally for its cutting-edge approach to important issues such as urban planning and environmental protection, and a number of health and social-impact issues. Civic participation is a key ingredient of Portland's culture and there are many resources upon which to call for this program segment.

In Portland, Nilen Vencadasmy will, among other activities, participate in a roundtable discussion with local parents, teachers, coaches, and faith-based organizations in order to gain a broad perspective on how the community at large is working together to instill the concepts of leadership and community service in young people. He will visit New Columbia, a formerly low income, gang and drug-infested community, which was developed, with federal funding and financial help other sponsors, into a neighborhood which design embraces principles of

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sustainability. Nilen Vencadasmy will also learn about mentor training programs. After Portland, he will head towards Salt Lake City, Utah, where the program ends. There, among other activities, the visitors will participate in half-day workshops on coalition building. Each visitor will produce an action plan.

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program. It seeks to build mutual understanding between the U.S. and other nations through carefully designed short-term visits to the U.S. for current and emerging foreign leaders. International Visitors are current or emerging leaders in government, politics, the media, education, the arts, business and other key fields. Over 4,000 International Visitors come to the United States from all over the world each year.

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